

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS TOSEC 125

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (SIMON, WILLIAM E.)

SUBJECT: PROPOSED VISIT TO SOUTH ASIA OF TREASURY

SECRETARY SIMON, FEBRUARY 4-8.

1. TREASURY SECRETARY SIMON WROTE TO YOU ON NOVEMBER 7
REGARDING HIS INTENTION TO ACCEPT AN INVITATION TO VISIT
INDIA IN FEBRUARY 1975 AND ALSO VISIT PAKISTAN. WE
RECOMMEND FOLLOWING REPLY WELCOMING HIS TRIP TO INDIA,
ENDORsing IDEA THAT HE STOP IN PAKISTAN, AND SUGGESTING
HE ALSO CONSIDER VISITING SRI LANKA. EXCEPT FOR BRIEF
AIRPORT STOP BY SECRETARY ROGERS IN JULY OF 1972, NO
CABINET LEVEL OFFICIAL HAS BEEN IN COLOMBO IN RECENT YEARS.
A VISIT BY SIMON WOULD HELP IN STRENGTHENING OUR PRESENTLY
WARM RELATIONS THERE.

2. TEXT OF SIMON LETTER:

DEAR HENRY,

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WHEN HE WAS STILL FINANCE MINISTER, CHAVAN INVITED ME TO VISIT INDIA. I HOPE TO BE ABLE TO DO SO EARLY IN 1975. RIGHT NOW THE PERIOD FEBRUARY 4-8 LOOKS FEASIBLE TO ME.

AS A FOLLOW-UP TO YOUR VISIT LAST WEEK I BELIEVE MY TRIP COULD BE BENEFICIAL IN CONSOLIDATING SOME IMPROVEMENT IN OUR ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL RELATIONS WITH INDIA.

MY STAFF IS WORKING WITH STATE TO ARRANGE SUCH A TRIP WHICH I PRESUME SHOULD INCLUDE PAKISTAN. I'D APPRECIATE ANY VIEWS YOU MAY HAVE ON TIMING, SUBJECT MATTER OR OTHER ASPECTS OF THE VISIT.

SINCERELY YOURS,

WILLIAM E. SIMON.

3. TEXT OF PROPOSED REPLY:

DEAR BILL:

I WELCOME THE NEWS THAT YOU ARE PLANNING TO GO TO SOUTH ASIA EARLY NEXT YEAR. THE INDIANS SPOKE TO ME WHILE I WAS IN DELHI OF THEIR HOPE THAT YOU WOULD BE COMING, AND I SAID I FELT THE SAME WAY. I AGREE WITH YOU THAT YOUR VISIT WOULD BE A USEFUL FOLLOW-UP TO MY OWN TRIP TO THE SUBCONTINENT, IN DEMONSTRATING THE SERIOUSNESS OF OUR INTEREST IN FURTHERING THE DEVELOPMENT OF BETTER RELATIONS WITH THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION.

A STOP IN NEW DELHI DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF FEBRUARY MAKES SENSE TO ME. THE ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SUBCOMMISSION OF THE INDO-US JOINT COMMISSION IS NOW SCHEDULED TO MEET IN THE MIDDLE OF JANUARY IN NEW DELHI, WITH TOM ENDERS AS THE AMERICAN CO-CHAIRMAN, AND WILL DISCUSS A WIDE RANGE OF ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ISSUES. WE WOULD HAVE HIS REPORT IN HAND BEFORE YOU GO, AND THUS BE BETTER ABLE TO DEFINE THE CURRENT STATUS AND FOLLOW-UP NEEDED ON OUTSTANDING ECONOMIC ISSUES BETWEEN INDIA

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AND THE UNITED STATES.

A VISIT TO PAKISTAN WOULD BE USEFUL AS WELL, ALTHOUGH THIS COULD DEPEND ON THE TIMING OF BHUTTO'S VISIT HERE - NOW TENTATIVELY SET FOR SOME TIME IN FEBRUARY. FROM A POLITICAL POINT OF VIEW, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE UNITED STATES NOT APPEAR TO BE NEGLECTING RELATIONS WITH ISLAMABAD.

I WOULD ALSO RECOMMEND YOU CONSIDER STOPPING BRIEFLY IN SRI LANKA. AS YOU KNOW, I VISITED BOTH BANGLADESH AND AFGHANISTAN DURING MY TRIP. WE ARE PLANNING TO SEND A HIGH LEVEL DELEGATION TO NEPAL LATE IN FEBRUARY FOR THE CORONATION OF THE NEPALESE KING. SRI LANKA IS THEREFORE THE ONLY COUNTRY IN SOUTH ASIA THAT HAS NOT HAD, OR WILL NOT VERY SOON HAVE A HIGH LEVEL VISITOR FROM THE UNITED STATES. WE VALUE OUR PRESENTLY GOOD RELATIONS WITH

COLOMBO AND YOUR VISIT WOULD UNDERSCORE OUR CONTINUING INTERESTS THERE.

YOU CAN BE ASSURED THAT THE DEPARTMENT WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO INSURE THAT YOUR TRIP TO SOUTH ASIA WILL BE A SUCCESSFUL ONE.

WITH WARM PERSONAL REGARDS,

SINCERELY,

HENRY A. KISSINGER. INGERSOLL

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